

and thus assurance that justice will not be denied through its delay as well as inadequate remedies, have made reform necessary long before the Bush-appointed NLRB began to work its mischief. The newly elected Democratic-led Congress should address labor-law reform.

Notwithstanding the subordinate role the law plays in the workplace malaise, respect for the law and its function are an important element in the democratic process.

This time around, however, the discussion must take into account a need for more sweeping changes which affect the agency itself. More formidable than one-sided statutory interpretations is a lack of production of cases. Ironically, as the number of cases filed with the NLRB has dropped, in part because unions lost confidence in its rulings, the resolution of those cases remaining declined. The reason for NLRB lethargy is not only Bush's hostility to collective bargaining, but also the appointment process: the past decade and a half has witnessed the emergence of partisan appointees and a greater reliance on Washington insiders from Capitol Hill, who, having no place to return, cling to office while they fail to decide cases which, they fear, will interfere with their re-appointment process.

The consequence of this is a politicization of decision-making, an ever-deeper NLRB ideological divide and the unwillingness of Congress to approve any presidential nominees without "batching" the appointments, i.e. providing for at least two appointments at a time, one with the blessing of labor, the other with the blessing of business. This means no more appointments like those made in labor law's early and halcyon days of the 1940s and '50s, when genuine impartial neutrals were appointed by Presidents Roosevelt and Truman.

One answer to the production problem and its denial of the prompt relief to which both workers and employers are entitled is longer terms and a prohibition against reappointment. The number of board members should be reduced to three members rather than five. This year, the board is at full strength, and its production is worse than ever. It is obvious that politically anxious prevarication is exacerbated when there are a greater number of cooks standing around the cold soup. The denial of collective bargaining to the overwhelming majority of the American workforce is one of our democracy's great failings. While changing our labor law and those who administer it will not remedy all that ails us, it would be a step forward.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE 125TH
ANNIVERSARY OF SPOKANE,
WASHINGTON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 125th birthday of the city of Spokane, Washington. Known as a "tough" town when Spokane was first developed, it quickly became known as the City of Wonder as tourists and sightseers flocked to the Inland Northwest to enjoy the beauty of its natural resources.

In their publication about Spokane, E.P. Charlton and Company wrote in 1909 that "Nature seems to have ordained that Spokane, the City Beautiful and Prosperous, should endure without a rival, and it may well be called the keystone in the arch of states

which span the western country between the Rockies and the Puget Sound."

Today, Spokane continues to be a beautiful and prosperous city. And when we look at the current and future state of Spokane, we see a city of innovation, success, and growth. Not only is Spokane surrounded by wonderful natural resources, but it is home to innovative small businesses that are changing the world of technology, educational institutions that are ensuring a strong future for our students, and a thriving health care industry that is revolutionizing the way we receive and deliver health care.

I commend the city for its efforts to grow the economy while still maintaining its historical roots. Through the revitalization of downtown and the restoration of key historical landmarks, Spokane has grown into a wonderful community that has an incredible amount to offer both residents and visitors. The restoration of historic landmarks such as the Davenport Hotel, Steam Plant Grill, Old City Hall and Fox Theater help keep the spirit of Spokane alive while serving as new centers for high quality accommodations, restaurants, and entertainment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate with the citizens of Spokane, Washington as we mark 125 years of success as a city. Eastern Washington has become a wonderful place to live, work and raise a family because of the incredible people that reside here. I invite my colleagues to join me in recognizing the hard work of the citizens of Spokane, Washington as we commemorate our 125th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO MR. NICHOLAS
MORABITO

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, with great pride and delight I rise today to honor a dedicated and respected community member, family man and veteran upon his 50th anniversary of exceptional service in the East Rochester School District.

Mr. Nicholas Morabito has led a life deeply connected and committed to his hometown of East Rochester, New York. Through his distinguished professional career and his spirit to make his community a better place, Mr. Morabito has left a lasting mark since graduating from East Rochester High School in 1943. Ten years later, Mr. Morabito would become the first graduate of East Rochester to be admitted to the New York bar, and in 1956 he would start his tenure as school attorney to the East Rochester School District, the position he still holds today. In this role for more than a half-century now, Mr. Morabito's priority and personal charge has been to serve educators and students, providing incomparable expertise and counsel to his Alma Mater.

That sense of dedication and service has defined Mr. Morabito his whole life, in East Rochester and beyond. In 1943, in the midst of World War II, Mr. Morabito joined the Navy after graduating from high school. Serving at Pearl Harbor and the Midway Islands through 1946, Mr. Morabito would return home a proud yet humble veteran who fulfilled his duty with honor and defended his country in the neediest of times.

After the war, Mr. Morabito began his distinguished legal career, which would be marked by his service in the New York State Assembly and Senate. From 1955 to 1960, Mr. Morabito served as counsel to the Military Affairs Committee in the state assembly, and from 1960 to 1963 served as counsel to the Labor and Industry Committee in the state senate. His civil service continued as Village Justice in East Rochester from 1960 to 1967, all the while fulfilling the position he so dutifully serves to this day as school attorney in East Rochester.

Mr. Morabito, through it all, has first and foremost been a devoted family man: husband to wife Patricia Ann for well over 50 years, father to 7 sons, and grandfather to 23 grandchildren. Born to parents Antonio and Angeline who emigrated from Italy, Mr. Morabito was instilled with the belief that family comes first. For Mr. Morabito, it does, and it always will.

Thus, Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his 50 years of tremendous service to the East Rochester School District and his courageous service to his country, and for his sense of community and his sense of family, I ask that this honorable body join me in honoring Mr. Nicholas Morabito.

RESOLUTION HONORING RUTH
BROWN

HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, December 5, 2006

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to introduce this resolution today honoring the life of Ruth Brown. I join my colleagues Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER and Ranking Member CHARLES RANGEL in recognizing the accomplishments of rhythm and blues singer Ruth Brown and her efforts to reform copyright royalty payments for recording artists.

On a sad day for the music community and myself, Ruth Brown passed away on November 17, 2006. She was a rhythm and blues singer known as Miss Rhythm and her talent rocketed her to become one of Atlantic Records' first recording stars. Her voice made her a hit from the 1940s and onward with such songs as "So Long," "Teardrops from My Eyes," and "He Treats your Daughter Mean." Richard Harrington of the Washington Post said "there was a world of hurt in those songs and an insistence on some justice, a boldness of voice that Miss Rhythm reached for as Miss Righteous."

Ruth Brown's peers recognized her talent, as well. She won a 1989 Tony Award for Best Actress in a Musical in *Black and Blue*; a 1989 Grammy Award for her album "Blues on Broadway;" and 1993 induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, and a 1999 Lifetime Achievement Award from The Blues Foundation. Her autobiography, *Miss Rhythm*, received the Ralph Gleason Award for Music.

Aside from her own singing career, Ruth Brown became a tireless advocate for the rights of other rhythm and blues singers. She worked with Congress to advance the cause of copyright royalty reform so that rhythm and blues artists could receive the royalties they deserved from their music. She also helped found the Rhythm and Blues Foundation in 1988 to recognize, promote, and preserve